

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claim 34 has been amended in such manner as to distinguish applicant's invention more clearly over Schroeder. The added limitations are neither taught nor suggested by Schroeder alone in combination with the other art of record, including the at least two individual strands of wire bonded to the backing and bordering the opposite side edges of the backing, wherein the wires lie flush against and in contact with the backing along their entire lengths to present a containment barrier to inhibit lateral displacement of the soft material under compression load in use beyond the opposite edges of the backing. This is significantly unlike the woven wire of Schroeder which uses far more material, is more complex, is twice as thick due to the woven structure of the wire, and adds to the weight and cost of bearings. It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that the rejection of claim 34 should be withdrawn and the claim allowed.

Claim 40 has been amended in such manner as to overcome the 112 rejection.

The dependency of claims 43-47 has been corrected to overcome the objection to those claims.

Claims 33-58 depend, ultimately, on claim 34 and are believed allowable for at least the same reasons as given above in support of claim 34. The dependent claims distinguish over their parent and one another by reciting applicant's invention in greater detail.

It is believed that this application now is in condition for examination on the merits. Further and favorable action is respectfully requested.

The Patent Office is authorized to charge or refund any fee deficiency or excess to Deposit Account No. 04-1061.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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